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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN DISSEM~~ SECTION 1 OF 2
CITE TDCS 314/04203-68 (ADVANCE)
REPORT CLASS CONFIDENTIAL ~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~
COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM
SUBJECT II CORPS SITUATION REPORT AS OF 13 HOURS 8 MARCH

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SOURCE

1. THE SITUATION WAS GENERALLY QUIET THROUGHOUT THE II CORPS AREA DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS. PLEIKU CITY, PLEIKU PROVINCE, AND KONTUM CITY, KONTUM PROVINCE, REPORTED MORTAR AND ROCKET ATTACKS, WHILE PHAN THIET BINH THUAN PROVINCE, EXPERIENCED SMALL ARMS FIRE NEAR THE CITY. THREATS OF LARGE SCALE ATTACKS CONTINUE IN THE HIGHLANDS AND SOME COASTAL PROVINCES IN II CORPS HAVE REPORTED A CERTAIN UNEASINESS NOTICEABLE IN THE LOCAL POPULACE. IN SOME AREAS, PEOPLE APPEAR TO BE PREPARING FORTIFICATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL SIZABLE ENEMY ATTACKS. THE VIETNAMESE IN PHU YEN PROVINCE SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT ECONOMICALLY THE VIET CONG (VC) HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS LEAP FORWARD, ARE CONVINCED THE VC CAN STRIKE AT WILL AND THEIR ATTITUDES VARY FROM FEAR OF THE VC TO BELIEF THE U.S. IS IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF ADVERSE PRESSURE AT HOME.

2. DURING THE NIGHT OF 7 MARCH, PLEIKU CITY, PLEIKU PROVINCE, RECEIVED 30 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR FIRE. AS YET, NO CASUALTIES HAD BEEN REPORTED AND ONLY LIGHT DAMAGE WAS INFLICTED ON THE AREA.

3. MACV HEADQUARTERS, KONTUM CITY, KONTUM PROVINCE, RECEIVED ONE ENEMY ROCKET ROUND AT 0110 HOURS, 8 MARCH. NO DAMAAGE WAS REPORTED TO THE INSTALLATION. DURING THE NIGHT OF 7 MARCH, ENEMY FORCES ENTERED NUMEROUS HAMLETS LOCATED AROUND KONTUM CITY. THIS TYPE OF ACTION HAS BECOME A STANDARD NIGHTLY PRACTICE BY THE ENEMY SINCE THE START OF THE INITIAL TET ATTACKS. ENEMY TROOPS PROPAGANDIZE, RECRUIT, AND BUY OR TAKE FOOD WHILE IN THE HAMLETS. ROAD TRAVEL BETWEEN KONTUM CITY AND DAK TO HAS BEEN HALTED BECAUSE OF INTERDICTION BY ENEMY MINES.

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4. IN DARLAC PROVINCE, [illegible] CONTINUE TO DEPLOY AROUND THE CITY OF BAN ME THUOT. ADDITIONAL ENEMY UNITS HAVE BEEN REPORTED INFILTRATING INTO THE PROVINCE FROM THE NORTH (PLEIKU PROVINCE) AND FROM THE SOUTH (THE SAIGON AREA). SOME OF THESE NEW UNITS ARE BELIEVED TO BE OF REGIMENTAL SIZE. ALTHOUGH BAN ME THUOT EXPERIENCED ITS QUIETEST NIGHT OF THE WEEK ON 7 MARCH, THE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO REMAIN FEARFUL OF NEW ENEMY ATTACKS. THE VC CONTROL, AND ARE EXPLOITING MANY OF THE VILLAGES AND HAMLETS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. THEY ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS CONTROL IN TNYPE AREAS BY CELEBRATING THEIR "VICTORY" IN THE TET ATTACKS. THE VC ARE TELLING VILLAGERS THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF SOUTH VIETNAM (COSVN) TO ATTACK BAN ME THUOT AND ARE PROMISING THE PEOPLE THAT NEW ATTACKS WILL BE LAUNCHED SHORTLY. AN ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) OPERATION, WHICH WAS STARTED ON 5 MARCH AT A LOCATION 12 KILOMETERS NORTH OF BAN ME THUOT, RESULTED IN A SERIOUS DEFEAT TO AN ARVN BATTALION. TWO ADDITIONAL ARVN BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN THE SAME AREA AGAINST THE WELL-FORTIFIED ENEMY FORCE. AS A RESULT OF THESE TROOPS LEAVING BAN ME THUOT, THE CITY IS NOW MUCH MORE VULNERABLE TO AN ENEMY GROUND ASSAULT.

5. THE SITUATION IN PHAN THIET, BINH THUAN PROVINCE WAS GENERALLY QUIET DURING THE NIGHT OF 7 MARCH. SEPARATE INCIDENTS OF SCATTERED SMALL ARMS FIRE WERE REPORTED WEST TO NORTH-WEST OF THE CITY AND SMALL PROBING ACTIONS WERE ALSO DETECTED, BUT THESE WERE OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE.

6. DUE PRIMARILY TO THE 4 MARCH MORTARING OF CAM RANH AIRFIELD, WIDESPREAD RUMORS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ENEMY GROUND ASSAULT HAVE SPREAD THROUGH THE LOKVL POPULACE IN THE CAM RANH AREA. RESIDENTS ARE FORTIFYING THEIR HOMES AND PEOPLE HAVE REPORTED "STRANGE NEW FACES" IN MANY OF THE HAMLETS NEAR THE SEAT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT AT BA NGOI.

7. NINH THUAN, LAM DON, AND QUANG DUC PROVINCES, THREE PROVINCES IN II CORPS WHICH WERE NOT HIT BY THE ENEMY'S TET OFFENSIVE, HAVE ALL REPORTED AN INCREASE IN VC ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. GENERALLY THIS ACTIVITY IS IN THE FORM OF HAMLET ENTRY FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. FOOD COLLECTION, AND RECRUITMENT OF YOUTHS. CENSUS GRIEVANCE [redacted] 3.3(h)(2)
REPORTS INDICATE THERE IS A GENERAL UNEASINESS IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASED VCUCTIVITY, WHILE THE PEOPLE IN THESE PROVINCES REMAIN BASICALLY GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) ORIENTED, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY EROSION IN THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE GVN'S ABILITY TO PROTECT THEM. HIGHWAYS IN NINH THUAN, ROUTES 1 AND 11, AND IN LAM DONG, ROUTE 20, ARE OPEN FOR THE MOST PART, BUT IN QUANG DUC TRAFFIC IS SUBJECT TO CONSTANT VC HARASSMENT AND TAXATION.

8. AS A RESULT OF THE SERIES OF ATTACKS ON TUY HOA, PHU YEN PROVINCE, APPROXIMATELY 3200 HOMES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED WITH 1600 PEOPLE CURRENTLY LISTED AS REFUGEES. MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE FORMERLY LISTED AS REFUGEES HAVE BEEN FURNISHED WITH SOME TYPE OF SHELTER OR HAVE BUILT THEIR OWN TEMPORARY QUARTERS. THE U.S. SECTOR S-2 ADVISOR HAS SAID THAT POLICE COOPERATION HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING WITH THE POLICE PROVIDING SOME OF THE BEST INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN RECEIVED. DURING THE DAY, TUY HOA IS DESCRIBED AS BEING LIKE "A THREE RING CIRCUS", WITH PEOPLE GOING TO SEE THE BODIES AND WATCHING THE FIGHTING, BUT AT NIGHT THERE IS ALMOST NOTHING MOVING EXCEPT THE POLICE.

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CITE TDCS 314/04203-68 (ADVANCE)

9. ECONOMICALLY, THE CONCENSUS AMONG VIETNAMESE CITIZENS IN TUY HOA, PHU YEN PROVINCE, IS THAT THE VC HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS LEAP FORWARD. AFTER THE TET ATTACK, MANY OF THE MILITARY UNITS WERE PULLED IN TO PROTECT THE LARGER TOWNS AND CITIES. AT THE END OF THE FALL HARVEST THE VC OBTAINED AN ESTIMATED 450 TONS OF RICE. OF THE 24,500 TONS OF RICE EXPECTED FROM THE WINTER/SPRING HARVEST WHICH HAS NOT YET ENDED, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST 6,000 TONS WILL BE UNACCOUNTED FOR, WITH BETWEEN 4,000 TO 4,500 TONS GOING TO THE VC. POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY, THE VC HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING THE PEOPLE OF TUY HOA THAT THE VC HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO STRIKE ANY PLACE AND ANY TIME AT THEIR OWN CHOOSING AND THAT THE POPULATED URBAN AREAS ARE NO LONGER SECURE. EVEN IF THE PEOPLE REALIZE THIS, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THEEY WILL STAY IN THEIR RURAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES FOR THEY ARE AWARE THAT MOST OF THE MILITARY OPERATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, ENDANGERING THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY. THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE IN PHU YEN PROVINCE, BOTH RURAL AND URBAN, TOWARD THE VC, TOWARD THE GVN AND TOWARD THE U.S. IS VARIED. THERE IS A REAL FEAR OF THE VC AND WHAT THEY CAN DO. THOSE WHO HAVE RELATIVES AMONG THE VC RANKS ARE MORE INCLINED TO LEAN TOWARD THE VC, YET THEY DO NOT WANT THE VC IN THEIR AREA FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS BY FREINDLY FORCES. TOWARD THE GVN, THERE ARE THOSE WHO FEEL THAT THE GVN PERFORMED CREDITABLY WHILE OTHERS LOOK AT THE GVN AS DISUNITED AND CORRUPT, ONLY INTERESTED IN BECOMING RICH AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RURAL PEOPLE AS A RESULT OF THE WAR. TOWARD THE U.S., SOME BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. PERMITTED THE PENETRATION OF TOWNS AND CITIES TO DETERMINE THE FAAITHFULNESS OF THE BUDDHIST CHURCH AND THE BEHAVIOR OF THE ANTI-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS OF SVN. OTHERS BELIEVE THAT THEE U.S. IS IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF ADVERSE PREESSURE FROM THE PEOPLE IN THE U.S.

10. [redacted] DISSEM: IFFV CORDS II CORPS 3.3(h)(2)
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